

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105001
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

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ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE

-----049239 251757Z /47

R 251331Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELIZE

INFO USINT HAVANA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BELIZE 392 ACTION SECSTATE DATED APR 21:

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELIZE 392

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, BH, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN RUMORS

REF: BELIZE 359

1. BELIZE'S FAVORITE SUBJECT FOR RUMORS THIS WEEK SEEMS
TO BE CUBANS. HOWEVER, WE CAN FEEL REASONABLY SAFE ABOUT
FOLLOWING.

2. THERE WAS CUBAN DELEGATION IN BELIZE FOR ECLA REGIONAL
CONFERENCE JUST CONCLUDED. DELEGATION WAY LARGE AND
PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN CONFERENCE. WAS HEADED BY ONE (FNU)
MELENDEZ (PHONETIC). MELENDEZ, SOMEWHAT TO SURPRISE OF
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BELIZEANS PRESENT, WAS ONE OF TWO DELEGATES STANDING IN
RECEIVING LINE WITH PREMIER PRIZE AT RECEPTION TUESDAY
NIGHT.

3. BRITISH GOVERNOR MCENTEE SAID HE HAD MET MELENDEZ WHO
HAD IMPRESSED HIM AS BRIGHT, RELAXED AND SUAVE. SEEMED
ASSURED AND POISED. GOV. IS CERTAIN IT WAS MELENDEZ AND

NOT GONZALES (REFTEL) WHO TRAVELLED WITH ATTNY GENERAL SHOMAN. OPPOSITION PRESS. AS GOV. SPECULATED, CARRIED STORY ON APRIL 17.

4. SEVERAL BELIZEANS WEH HAVE TALKED WITH, ALBEIT BRIEFLY, INDICATE CONCERN OVER CUBAN "PRESENCE" HERE. GUATEMALAN CONSUL GENERAL DEVELOPED ELABORATE CUBAN SCARE SCENARIO WHICH WE NOT INCLINED TAKE SERIOUSLY. HE WAS SUPPORTED BY HIS HONDURAN COLLEAGUE; BOTH SEEM TO BE RUNNING TRUE TO FORM.

5. MORE FANCIFUL RUMORS INCLUDE REPORTS OF CUBANS SEEN LURKING IN CAYS OFFSHORE AND SIMILAR. WHATEVER ELSE MAY MATERIALIZE, IT SEEMS CERTAIN CUBANS WILL CONTINUE BE MAJOR SUBJECT FOR LOCAL CONVERSATION ESPECIALLY IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES. OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE IS THAT MOST BELIZEANS HAVE PRETTY STRONG RESERVATIONS ON THIS MATTER AND THAT PRICE HAD BEST TREAD CAREFULLY. NALLE UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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